Completion of Kaudila—Khatinda UG line

*109. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be plea ed to state;

(.a) by when the Kandla—Bhatinda broad-gauge line will be completed;

(b) how much cost it will take; and

(c) how many narro gauge lines in Gujarat are to he converted into broad gaug2 lines in this financial year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Kand'a—Bha inda direct BG link would become available by 31-3-1996.

(b) The project is estimated to cost around Rs. 700 crores.

(c) Nil.

Rehuh "tation policy for project affected people

110 . SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to ftate:

<a) whether Government have finalised rehabilitation policy for project-affected people of Konkan Railway; jf so, what • are the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of project affected peop'e on Konkan Railway Project *»'e* in the mood of agitation since he rehabilitation has not been considered eligible by Railway Authorities or by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS <SHRI C. K. IAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Compensation is paid for land and buildings, trees and other strictures acquired fc the Project at ra^es as determined by the District Authorities of the State Governments. Tn addition, persons who have lost their entire source of livelihood, as certified by the District Authorities, are given emplovment on the Proiect. On the Konkan Railway Project, even those local people who have been partially affected have been given temporary employment in the Construction stage.

(b) No. Sir.

Guidelines for wildlife tourism

•111. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has a proposal to draw-up guidelines tor Wildlife tourism;

(b) if so, the de;ails thereof.

(c) the steps taken to regulate the protection of wildlife in the protected areas, and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF IHE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH (a) and lb) Yes, Sir. A draft outline has been prepared and this is in the process of consultation with various experts and interested agencies before finalisation,

fc) and (d) The important steps taken by the Government to protect and promote the tiger and other endangered species are as under:—-

(i) A Tiger Crisis Cell has been set up in the Ministry.

(ii) State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling around the Tiger Re-serves .

(in) Steps have been initiated to set up a Special Strike Force in the Project Tiger Areas.

(iv) S-eclal schemes for protection and conservation *o?* tigers, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(v> A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of Wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for deve-lopmen- of National Parks and Sanctuaries on request from the State Governments .

(vi) International trade i_n endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES").

(vii) A scheme of eco-development has been launched to reduce the bio-tic pressure on the area and winning over the support of local people to the aspect of wildlife conservation.